



COLUMBIA-MONTOUR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER, 2007

<http://www.qsl.net/cm-arc/>

DUES ARE GOING UP

Well, folks, it finally happened! For the first time in our history (so far as I can determine) we need to increase dues. We do not like to do this, but if we are to remain viable as a club, we must restructure our club dues. The new dues structure, which was approved by the membership at the September meeting, is as follows:

Regular Membership ----- \$20
Senior Membership (65 years of age or older) - \$15
Student ----- \$10
Associate Member (unlicensed) ----- \$5
Family Member - \$5 less than primary member

According to our club constitution, we must again vote on the above at our October meeting in order to have the dues structure in place for the year 2008.

FUND-RAISING IDEA FROM ANDY, N3OMA

As you can see from the previous article, the club is in need of some additional fund-raising. Andy, N3OMA, suggests that club members look for radio equipment that they are not using (like old microphones, homebrew stuff, etc.) and donate the equipment to the club. Other non-radio articles could also be donated. Andy would use his expertise and sell the articles on the Internet using Ebay.

This is a great idea. Hope we can find some old items we are not using and donate them to the club for Andy to sell. If you have any items to donate, you can email Andy at:

maxfax@cris.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BIG PPL DRILL

Our ARES / RACES Officer, Randy, N3JPV, is organizing everything for the BIG PPL DRILL to be held on Thursday, October 11th. Many Municipal Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) must be manned with ham radio operators, and we really need the volunteers. The volunteers are to be at their assigned EOCs at 6:30 p.m. Randy will do the organization for the drill primarily using Email.

PA QSO PARTY

This fun contest is coming up on October 13 and 14. We have entered this contest as a club for many years, and we also sponsor the plaque for the highest-scoring Canadian amateur. Please make plans to take part in this contest, and be sure to state your club affiliation as Columbia-Montour ARC. For complete details on the contest, see the official website at:

<http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>

The Murgas Amateur Radio Club is based in the Wilkes-Barre area. The officers of the Murgas Club noted that there are many technicians in their membership, and to take part in the PA QSO Party, special times and frequencies are needed for the technicians. They expanded the idea to include some general frequencies. Here are the times and frequencies:

The Murgas Radio Club invites the participants of the Pa QSO Party to activate bands that are non productive. This will also give the technician stations a chance to put in limited hours, but still be productive

These are LOCAL HOURS and both on SATURDAY and SUNDAY

4:00 pm 146.490 - 146.550 - 146.580

4:30 pm 50.125 SSB

4:45 pm 50.100 CW

5:00 pm 28.480 SSB

5:15 pm 28.040 CW

5:30 pm 21.380 SSB

5:45 pm 21.040 CW

**Good luck guys and have fun.
K 3 Yellow Traffic Light**

FRED VETH, WB3YTA, SK

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Fred, WB2YTA. Fred was active in our club, and we will remember that he was our main chef on many Field Days. Fred also took part in our emergency drills, and was a net control station for the Rooster Net many mornings. Fred will be missed.

Fred directed in his will that his radio equipment would be donated to our club. We have not taken possession of the equipment yet, but all club members certainly appreciate Fred's generosity.

OUR CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

Our club Treasurer, Dave, WC3A, is the person who checks our U.S. Postal Service mailbox in Mifflinville. Dave reports that the cost of the mailbox is \$48 per year, and we receive almost no mail there. So we have decided that the mailbox will be dropped. All club mail will now be directed to my home mailing address. Thus the club address is:

**CMARC
% Robert Foster
1586 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603**

PHONE LINE TO THE REPEATER

Our club repeater operates on a frequency of 147.225 (+). Years ago, a phone line was required for remote control of repeaters. Recently the law was changed, so we are no longer required to have the phone line.

For many years we ran a phone patch with our repeater. Just think, you could make phone calls using your two-meter radio from your car or anywhere. That was before cell phones became common. Now with so many of our club members with cell phones, the phone patch feature of the repeater was almost never used.

The club decided to discontinue the phone line to the repeater. There is no longer a phone line, so phone patch is no longer available with our club repeater.

VE TESTING UPDATE

Our VE team is now a "Field Stocked Team". This is a higher level of VE team since we will now automatically receive all testing materials and updates without making a request. This status was achieved due to our monthly testing schedule and Hamfest activities. We are currently the only ARRL VE testing team in our immediate area and have tested Hams from as far away as Lock Haven. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers, we have maintained a monthly testing schedule and give tests almost every month before our club meetings.

Friday Evening Coffee Meetings

Jim, KB3ICM, reports that the informal meetings at Dunkin' Donuts in Berwick every Friday evenings regularly have around ten amateurs. The meetings start around 8 p.m., and continue to around 10 p.m. Hams come and go as they please. Here is what Jim says about the informal gatherings:

All are welcome to attend and share in the fun. Why not stop by and meet some of your radio friends in person?

NET CONTROL STATIONS NEEDED

In order to be prepared to carry on emergency communications when needed, we have an ARES Net on our CMARC repeater, 147.225 +, tone 203.5. The net is activated every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. local time. We need amateurs who will act as net control stations. So if you want to have some fun and be a net control station, send an E-mail to Jack, N3EUM:

jlmcorm@jlink.net

Jack is an Assistant ARES Emergency Coordinator, and he is our Net Coordinator who schedules the net control stations. He will provide a script for you to read when you act as net control. Please keep on checking into the net, and encourage others to check in, too!

Jack has about eight people who act as net control stations, so the job of actually being a net control only comes around every

eight weeks or so. The more people we have, the less frequently each person has to be net control, and the more people we can involve in emergency communications.

ARRL DX QSL SERVICE

If you are a member of both CMARC and ARRL, we will forward your DX QSL cards to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. Just make sure I get the cards (you can give them to me at a meeting or drop your cards at my home), and as soon as I accumulate a pound of cards (about 155 cards), I will forward the cards to the bureau. There is no charge to you for this service, but I must have your ARRL membership number in order to forward your cards.

CMARC collects and sends to the bureau about eight shipments of one pound each of DX QSL cards per year. About ten club members use this service at present. **The ARRL has increased the rate from \$8 per pound of QSLs to \$10 per pound. Aren't you glad we offer this service?**

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE "CMARC MEMBERS ONLY" EMAILS???

At the same time this newsletter was sent over the Internet, another message was sent titled "CMARC Members Only – December". This message is only sent to people who have paid their CMARC dues. If you did not get the "CMARC Members Only" message, it means you have not paid your dues. What is in the "CMARC Members Only" Email messages? The message contains the minutes of the last meeting and a complete roster of all members of CMARC. These "Member Only" messages are sent out monthly.

In many cases, people have forgotten whether they have paid their dues. For the present time, everyone who was a member last year will receive the "members only" for the first few months of 2007. Please take a few minutes and send in your dues now! The next two articles describe how you can join CMARC. We would love to have you as a member!

Thanks to everyone who have already sent in their dues. Don't wait! Send in your dues now! Read the next article on how to become a member!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2007

The membership drive for 2007 is underway! To become a member of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club, send in your membership dues of \$10.

The rate for children of members is half the adult price for basic membership (\$5). If the parent has phone patch then the child is free. Students whose parents are not members get their dues half price (\$5) as well. To become a member, please send a check to our Membership Chairman:

Dave Schack

6020 Fort Jenkins Lane

Bloomsburg, PA 17815

When you send in your dues for 2007, please include the following information: Name, Call, whether you want autopatch, whether you are an ARRL member, your E-mail address, and your regular U.S. Postal Service address.

Please note that many people have had address changes caused by the State of Pennsylvania changing from RR and RD addresses to the new 911 addresses. Please give Dave your new address!

Please state whether you qualify for a discount because you are the child of a member or if you are a student. Our membership chairman, Dave, WC3A, will appreciate this very much.

NOTE THAT THESE ARE THE DUES FOR 2007, AND IN 2008 THE NEW DUES STRUCTURE WILL GO INTO EFFECT.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2007

President – Bob Foster, K3QIA

Vice President – Jere Vietz, W3JLV

Secretary – Linda Daring, KB3ERH

Assistant Secretary – Jack McCormick, N3EUM

Treasurer – Dave Schack, WC3A

Activities Director – Jim Hancock, KB3ICM

Trustees – Jack McCormick, N3EUM

All officers have been elected to serve a one-year term except for Jack McCormick, who will serve a three-year term. All

Trustees serve a three-year term. The other Trustees are Jim Hancock, KB3ICM (elected to serve until December 2008), and Linda Daring, KB3ERH (elected to serve until December 2007).

EDITORIAL – LOW SUNSPOT CYCLE PROPAGATION

This fall and winter with the sunspot cycle bottoming out, there will be excellent propagation on the low bands (160 through 40 meters).

While 20 through 10 meters will experience poor propagation, the low bands will experience the best propagation in years. So watch those low bands for lots of great propagation.

73, Bob, K3QIA

President of the Columbia-Montour Amateur Radio Club